Deterioration of River Godavari

1909. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken a positive stance to demands from environmentalists and concerned citizens to protect the rapid deterioration of the River Godavari in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the River Conservation Cell of Government have not moved beyond some Delhi-Centric action;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring more focus on the rapid deterioration of the health of the River Godavari in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether a team would be sent to meet concerned activists on this matter; and

(e) the role of Government in conserving such important rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) of Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken up River Conservation Programmes after due approval by the National River Conservation Authority constituted under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister in which all the States are represented. The Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 51.03 crore for schemes for abatement of pollution of River Godavari from four towns. These towns are Bhadrachalam, Manchherial, Rajahmundry and Ramagundam. The State Government on its own can take up other appropriate schemes for prevention and control of pollution.

(d) The programmes of NRCP are taken up on the recommendations of the State Government depending on the availability of financial resources. The environmentalists and concerned citizens can always interact with the State Government and give their suggestion.

(e) Under the National River Conservation Programme, the Central Government takes up implementation of works such as interception and diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plant and river front development. These schemes are being implemented by the State Government and/or their agencis. Besides, pollution control standards are

notified for disposing effluents in the river, so that river quality for designated use is maintained.

Deliberate killing of wild buffalos

1910. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a deliberate killing of wild buffalos in the Papikonda Game Sanctuary in the last two years;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fast depletion of wild buffalos in Papikonda Game Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the corrective or preventive steps Government have initiated in responding to various demands to better protect this game sanctuary;

(d) whether Government would take stock of the situation on an urgent basis; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such incidence has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to States for protection and management of sanctuaries/national parks. The funds provided to Papikonda Sanctuary during last three years are as below—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Funds Released
2002-03	13.50
2003-04	12.70
2004-05	9.00

(d) Does not arise.